

THE UNION FLAG.

VOLUME 2.

JONESBOROUGH, TENN. FRIDAY, JUNE 8, 1866.

NUMBER 4.

GREAT INDUCEMENTS!

THE UNION FLAG.

Jonesborough, June 8, 1866

G. E. GRISHAM,
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

The Union Flag will be published every Friday Morning, on the following terms:

One copy, per year, \$3 00
Six months, 2 00
Single copy, 10 cents.

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again, and was unsuccessful in courting a renewal of the favor of the drowsy god.

"Presently I heard the door of the school-room open, and light but distinct footsteps approached. I started up; every object was involved in the deepest darkness; the bunch of keys in my travelling trunk jingled; my letters and papers on the floor were evidently in motion, and a voice very near me uttered three deep groans.

"Before I could consider what it would be prudent to do under such circumstances, the noise ceased, and the next moment was heard again on the floor overhead. The following night I provided myself with fire-arms, placed a phosphorus box on the table, and awaited in bed—half asleep, half awake—the approach of midnight.

"I had not lain long before the noises of the preceding night were renewed; I sprang out of bed, the cock of my pistol snapped, but without effect; the flint had been removed, and the powder did not ignite. 'The Devil!' cried I, 'what unbidden guest comes to disturb my rest. I would have you know that there are neither treasures nor curiosities here. If you are in search of unprinted manuscripts, wait till I have got a light, and then you may read them all at your leisure.'

Whilst I was speaking I made several unsuccessful attempts to procure a light, but the brimstone went out; and just as I succeeded, a groan was audible, the door closed gently, and there I stood arms aloft, gazing at it, like a child at a broken toy.

"This has occurred every night since, and I have ceased to concern myself about finding the cause of what appears inexplicable: I sleep soundly and leave the ghosts to amuse themselves as they please. And now, pray, what do you think of all this? I know you hold all mysticisms and Platonisms of the new school in contempt; but do you deny the existence of supernatural things? Will you affirm that in the spiritual world nothing but God can become the subject of our senses?"

"There may, indeed, exist supernatural beings, Victor," I observed, "but the idea what is supernatural involves a contradiction, and what is contradictory is nonsensical. In a Catholic and a poet, this credulity does not surprise me; but depend upon it, the flights of a too ardent imagination, not the sparks of supernatural beings, have furnished you with the materials of your ghost story."

"Do you take me then for a fool, who has been talked out of his wits by the priests? Look you, I neither go to mass nor to confession; I have thrown away my rosary; and as to their absolution, I laugh at it. Only give me proofs instead of words—prove to me that there exists nothing but God and nature."

"Let us quit the subject," said I, to-morrow I will call upon you and show you how to lay spirits."

"Be it so," said he; and having finished our bottle, we shook hands and parted for the night.

The next evening I visited the chamber of my friend: I found him sitting at the table, with his arms crossed, and his back leaning against the wall. "Say what you will," remarked he, as the conversation turned again upon spirits, "talk as much as you like of the force of imagination, you will alter your opinion before the night is past."

It was eleven o'clock; I went down stairs, and stepped gently up again, in order not to excite the suspicions of the fellow-lodgers.

"Now follow my advice," said Victor, "take your dagger, seat yourself on the other side of the door, as I do this on this, put on the light, speak little, and softly, and wait till the door opens." He did as I said.

We had scarcely sat an hour, when we heard footsteps approaching; the stairs creaked and presently afterwards a key was put into the door at which we were stationed; it was unlocked and gently opened. I arose from my seat, and retreated a pace; and holding my breath, listened intently, though the utter darkness of the room prevented me from distinguishing a single object. Scarcely had the door closed, when I began to feel about for the intruder with my right hand, while I kept my left hand raised, and in readiness to deal a heavy blow, should occasion require it.

"Now Victor," cried I; and my friend did not suffer himself to be called twice, but sprang forward instantly to the attack. A loud laugh escaped us both as we seized the ghost, which powerless and fainting did not make an effort to escape. "Light your candle," cried I, "and leave me the hobgoblin, who shall die in my arms if he manifests any desire to move or make a noise." Victor ran into the next room, and brought a light.

"Oh pray gentlemen, have compassion on a poor girl!" muttered the spectre, which, as I already began to suspect, was a maiden in disguise. Victor entered with a candle in hand. "A girl!" exclaimed he, holding a light in the face of the trembling ghost, who in soft accents implored our pity, as we stood gazing at each other in astonishment. The maiden was clad in white, her long hair fell in disorder on her shoulders, and she kept her face buried in her hands. I had suffered the little creature to sink down on the sofa, and was indeed not a little amazed. I had expected the shuddering of blood, instead of which my own mounted into my cheeks, as the little rest-drover regarded us with her tearful blue eyes, and besought our pity.

"My step-mother," said the fair girl, "wishes to purchase this house, and has forced me for more than a year to wander about here every night, in order to make people think it is haunted, so that she may have it as a bargain."

Victor recovered himself sooner than I did.

"Very well," said he, "give us each a kiss and we will let you go. As for me, you may continue your visits unmolested, if you promise to pay the tribute punctually every time. So saying he embraced the frightened girl, and kissed her on the cheek.

"Receive my wages at the same time, Victor!" cried I, and taking up my hat and stick, I bent my way homeward.

A Man Confined in a Saltpetre Cave for 270 days.

The people at Parker's Gap, Tennessee, were much alarmed yesterday morning by a rumor that there was a human being in an old saltpetre cave near the Gap—supposed to be the one visited by Col. Bingham, while on picket. The Colonel failed to explore it on account of noxious vapors issuing from the opening.

The ladies, God bless 'em, ever ready to respond to the call of humanity, hurried to the rescue, but their united efforts were insufficient to extricate the sufferer. Surgeon Marks, Medical Director of this Division, and Surgeon Powers, of the Artillery corps, were sent for and after a great deal of labor the poor fellow was taken from his living tomb.

He was recognized as John Harrison, Jr.—It is supposed that this unfortunate man was deposited in the cave about the middle of last August, by his father, who was connected with the mining and nitre bureau of the C. S. A., and that he has remained there ever since.

When taken out he was entirely helpless and speechless, and although youthful, was entirely destitute of hair and teeth. He will not be able to tell the tale of his horrible sufferings for years. How he sustained existence in that "dark, unfathomable cave," for three-quarters of a year, is a question for the student in physiology to answer.—Chattanooga Gazette.

A GRAND MASONIC CEREMONY.—The public ceremony of the installation of the Supreme Council of the Ancient and Primitive Rite of Memphis, of the nineteenth degree, by the Thrice Illustrious Grand Master Harry J. Seymour was performed last evening at Odd Fellows' Hall in the presence of three hundred ladies and gentlemen.

The Masons were attired in their peculiarly rich regalia, and the proceedings were dignified and solemn.

In course of the evening, the Most Worshipful Master John W. Simmons, Past Grand Master and Grand Chancellor of the Rite of Memphis, delivered an address, in which he alluded to Masonry as a common platform for good men of all sects, opinions and conditions; and once there none might say to his brother, "stand back, I am holier than thou." For the proposed erection of a great hall and asylum for aged Masons and Masons' widows and orphans, the speaker said \$160,000 had been subscribed; more than half a million dollars were wanted. The Sovereign Grand Master-General delivered an address on the Rite of Memphis, saying that in degrees of Free Masonry the further the advance the greater was the enlightenment. The exercises were closed by a Masonic benediction.—New York Post 30th.

A widow lady by the name of Miller, living at Lafayette Ia., was struck by lightning on Saturday evening, the 26th ult. Strangers to say the shock had no other effect than to cure Mrs. M. of a severe attack of the neuralgia.

One Solomon Andrews of New York has invented a flying machine. There are some reconstructed editors in this State, who although not Solomon's by a great deal, have got the same kind of machines without the f.—Press & Times.

If Jeff Davis is found guilty of treason under the recent indictment, the greatest punishment the law permits is ten year's imprisonment or 10,000 fine.

The Louisville Journal truthfully remarks that "northern capital is pouring into East Tennessee, and especially at Knoxville. New houses and factories are springing up, and farms are being purchased by farmers and army officers.—Several extensive steam saw-mills, iron foundries and large manufactories have been erected.

The Indians on the Plains, in the vicinity of Ash-Hollow, have had a great row among themselves. The old chiefs were in favor of attending the Peace Conference at Laramie, but the young bloods wanted war, and commenced to paint for the war path; thereupon the wise heads surrounded them, killed their horses, burned their tents, killed two of their ringleaders, and remained master of the situation.

THE TAX BILL.

Sombody proposes the following new amendment to the tax bill:

For kissing a pretty girl, one dollar.
For kissing a homely one, two dollars, the extra amount being added probably for a man's folly.

For ladies kissing one another, two dollars. The tax is placed at this rate in order to break up the custom altogether, it being regarded by our M. C.'s as a piece of inexcusable absurdity.

For every flirtation, ten cents.
Every young man who has more than one girl is taxed five dollars.

For courting in the kitchen twenty-five cents.
Courting in a parlor, one dollar.

Courting in a romantic place, five dollars, and fifty cents for each offence thereafter.

Seeing a lady home from church, twenty-five cents.
Going from church without accompanying a lady, five dollars.

Seeing a lady home from the Mite Society, five cents, the proceeds to the relief of disabled army chaplains.

For ladies who paint, fifty cents.
For wearing a low-necked dress, one dollar.

For each curl on a lady's head, above ten, five cents.

For any unfair device for entrapping young men into matrimony, five dollars.

For wearing hoops larger than eight feet in circumference eight cents for each hoop.

Old bachelors over thirty are taxed ten dollars and banished to Utah.

Each pretty lady to be taxed from twenty-five cents to twenty-five dollars, she to fix the estimate of her own beauty. It is thought that a very large amount will be realized from this provision.

Each boy baby, fifty cents.
Each girl baby, ten cents.

Families having more than eight babies are not taxed, and for twins, a premium of forty dollars will be paid out of the funds accruing from the tax on old bachelors.

Each Sunday loafer on the street, or about church doors, to be taxed his value, which is about two cents.

The Carleton (Illinois) Democrat says: "For some time past a party of Indians numbering fifteen, belonging to the Cherokee tribe, have been encamped upon the banks of the Illinois river, ten miles from this place. Their ostensible object was fishing, hunting, etc., but it appears from recent developments, that their chief aim was to secure a hidden treasure of seven urns of Spanish coin which had been in the bluffs at that point in years gone by, by their ancient forefathers. They seemed to be extremely cautious in their manners; lest the pale face should discover the cause of their presence in that particular locality, and wrest the coveted prize, for which they had traveled many miles. After diligent search, which occupied some ten or twelve days, they succeeded in finding the spot where lay the secret of their researches. Little remains to be told. Suffice to say that, after due exploration, their brightest anticipations were by far more than realized. The urns of gold and other sacred relics spoken of by their chiefs, long since gone to their happy 'hunting grounds,' were secured, and, on yesterday morning, these untutored children of the forest took their departure for the far West, with many thousand Spanish dollars to cheer them on their long and tedious march.

The nomination of Wade Hampton as postmaster at Harrisburg, Pa., was rejected by the Senate on the 30th ult., by a vote of 24 to 27. Another rejection was that of the nominee for postmaster at Lafayette, Indiana.

A dispatch from Toronto says that in consequence of the news from Buffalo of the arrival of Fenians, the military there are on the alert, and preparations are being made for any emergency.

Cure for Hog Cholera.—Take 10 grains of calomel, 10 grains of opium and 10 drops of Turpentine. Give it in slop, or if the hog will not eat the slop, crush him.

This remedy has been used with great success. Farmers who used it as a preventive have never lost any hogs by cholera and it is a certain cure if the animal is able to swallow it.

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Carter, Jefferson, Johnson, and Sullivan;
also in the Supreme and Federal Courts
at Knoxville. June 2-1y.

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